



## Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

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Aetna Ambulance :- Ambulance Service of Manchester :- American Ambulance Service  
Campion Ambulance Service :- Hunter's Ambulance Service

### Testimony of the Association of CT Ambulance Providers *In Opposition to*

#### **S.B. No. 593 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.**

*Labor Committee Hearing, January 29, 2015*

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor Committee, the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 593- **An Act Concerning Severe Mental and Emotional Impairment and Workers' Compensation Coverage**. As currently, drafted we have significant concerns in the impact it would have on the industry.

Emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers by virtue of their education, training and duty to act are routinely called upon to respond to, assess, treat, transport, or make presumptions of death of victims in the immediate aftermath of violent acts. Emergency medical professionals who go into this career do so understanding and expecting to see such tragedies and nonetheless choose the career. It is common for EMTs and paramedics to encounter such events as the first responder on scene or even as a supplemental responder.

What is not common or expected however is for the emergency medical services professional to witness the violent act itself and this is where we draw our specific distinction and respectfully request an exemption. We request that language be added that exempts emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers who respond within the course of their duties to the aftermath of such acts.

Ambulance providers pay some of the highest workers' compensation rates due to the nature of the employment. This bill would cause an increasing hardship on all providers at a time when Medicaid and Medicare rates have been cut.

We are committed to work with the committee and can offer language that makes the appropriate distinction as referenced above.

Thank you,

*David D. Lowell*

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